



None Greater: The Undomesticated Attributes of God

Matthew Barrett , Fred Sanders (Foreword)

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"Matthew Barrett leads us to marvel at both how much and how little we know of God."--Tim Challies, blogger at challies.com; author of *Visual Theology*

For too long, Christians have domesticated God, bringing him down to our level as if he is a God who can be tamed. But he is a God who is high and lifted up, the Creator rather than the creature, someone than whom none greater can be conceived. If God is the most perfect, supreme being, infinite and incomprehensible, then certain perfect-making attributes must be true of him. Perfections like aseity, simplicity, immutability, impassibility, and eternity shield God from being crippled by creaturely limitations. At the same time, this all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-wise God accommodates himself, exhibiting perfect holiness, mercy, and love as he makes known who he is and how he will save us.

The attributes of God show us exactly why God is worthy of worship: there is none like him. Join Matthew Barrett as he rediscovers these divine perfections and finds himself surprised by the God he thought he knew.

"Matthew Barrett's excellent book lays out in clear, accessible terms what the biblical, historic, ecumenical doctrine of God is, why it matters, and why its abandonment by great swathes of the Protestant world is something that needs correction."--**Carl R. Trueman**, professor, Grove City College; author of *Grace Alone*

"Perhaps not since R. C. Sproul has there been a treatment of such deep theology with such careful devotion and accessibility. Read this book. And stagger."--**Jared Wilson**, director of content strategy, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; managing editor, *For the Church*; author of *The Gospel-Driven Church*

"The knowledge of God is the soil in which Christian piety flourishes. I am grateful for the publication of *None Greater* and pray it will be a source of growth in godliness among those captivated by its vision of God's supremacy."--**Scott Swain**, president and James Woodrow Hassell Professor of Systematic Theology, Reformed Theological Seminary-Orlando; author of *Reformed Catholicity*

None Greater: The Undomesticated Attributes of God Details

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From Reader Review None Greater: The Undomesticated Attributes of God for online ebook

Charlene Gonzalez Gonzalez says

As Matthew explains how we as people look for images and reasons for a creator. We could never find it.. But all over the bible God shows us who he is and how he looks like. This book has showed me that its not hard to know who God is and that we can't control Him or image a person as a god.. I give this book 5 stars because it will help you understand more about God especially when you are reading and study His words.

Doug says

Catholicism, reformed theology taints what could have been a great book

In his new book, "None Greater: The Undomesticated Attributes of God," Matthew Barrett presented what I thought would be an interesting and important read on the attributes of God.

While he does present attributes such as God's immutability, omnipotence and omnipresence, Barrett relies heavily on both Catholic and reformed theology (Calvinism), which leads to confusion for readers unfamiliar with this form of biblical heresy.

(For example, John Calvin believed in limited atonement and that only a chosen number were ordained to be saved (from his famous TULIP illustration), while the rest of humanity was destined for hell, which runs contrary to what the Bible teaches. In addition, Barrett quotes from the likes of Martin Luther, who was vehemently anti-Semitic.)

Published by Baker Books, Barrett's 304-book is laden with quotes, references and citations from what he calls "the A-Team": Augustine of Hippo (canonized by the Catholic Church), Anselm of Canterbury (a Catholic mystic) and Thomas Aquinas (a Catholic priest). Barrett also quotes C.S. Lewis, who once confessed to praying for the dead, and quotes the Creed of Chalcedon, which falsely gives credence to "our Holy Fathers" and "the Mother of God."

Moreover, he extensively uses Catholic theological terms such as impassibility and aseity to claim that "God is impassible in the sense that He cannot experience emotional changes in state due to His relationship to and interaction with human beings and the created order." Yet, the Bible says He is High Priest who is "touched with the feelings of our infirmities" and that He relents, as well as Jesus (who is God) weeping upon seeing Lazarus' sisters' grief over his death.

In addition, Barrett uses the terms divine simplicity, pure act and passive potency (page 97), which are Catholic terms that have little, if anything, to do with the attributes of God. He seems to go from the inane (the above examples) to the absolutely absurd when he asks some rhetorical, albeit, insulting questions, such as "Can God create a rock so big He cannot lift it? (pg. 190)." And "Can God whisper a secret He cannot know? (pg. 192)."

Overall, Barrett relies too much on the opinions and comments of others (especially heretical Catholic and reformed theologians) rather than doing his own research into both the Greek and Hebrew meanings that

more accurately and poignantly describe the attributes of God.

If you're looking for a fairly good book on the attributes of God, I'd recommend J.I. Packer's classic, *Knowing God*.

I gave Barrett's book a 1 out of 5 stars.

Full disclosure: In accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255, I received this book free through the Baker Books Bloggers Program. My opinions are my own and I wasn't required to write a positive review.

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John W. Dube says

The attributes of God through the lens of classical theism (a la, Augustine, Anselm, and Aquinas). Thus, lots of "transcendence" and a strong argument for impassability.

Samuel Parkison says

I had the distinct privilege to read this book before publication, and I have been eager for its release since then. Dr. Barrett has done the Church of Jesus Christ a great service here. The average Christian in the West today is plagued by a puny view of God--a god who is "reckless" and temperamental and moody; a god who is relatable to us. But Dr. Barrett shows that such a god cannot save and is not worthy of worship.

Thankfully, such a god does not exist. The Triune God of the Bible is unlike us--he is able to save and he is worthy of worship. Chapter after chapter, Barrett shows how these classic doctrines of theology proper are far from etherial, abstract ideas--they are rather doxological fodder. Every pastor should read this book, and then give it away to his members like crazy!

Joan says

This book is much more than just an exploration of the attributes of God. I am impressed with Barrett clarifying how the attributes are interrelated. He shows how we cannot latch on to the attributes we like and ignore the rest. Barrett will not let us create a comfortable God, a being like us. Nor will he let us have a God we can control.

Barrett has given us a view of God consistent with the Bible. He deals with some of God's attributes and actions that might not be popular with people who want God to just be love. We are reminded that God is not a glorified human. He is not like we are. Our finite minds cannot even begin to comprehend His infinite being. We are so limited in our understanding, there will always be mystery.

While this book is generally readable, it is theology. Sometimes I had to stop and reread passages to make sure I was grasping what Barrett was communicating. He has included a glossary to help readers with theological terms, such as aseity.

I highly recommend this book. I have read a number of recent books where the authors attempt to make God someone we can like and accept like a glorified human. Barrett portrays God as He is revealed in the Bible. I am glad Barrett has set the record straight.

I received a complimentary galley of this book from the publisher. My comments are an independent and honest review.

Ronni Kurtz says

I was fortunate enough to work through this book by Matthew Barrett a few times prepublication. I couldn't recommend the volume any more than I do. Barrett capably delivers what has been complicated matters regarding divine perfections like simplicity, aseity, impassability, and more, in a remarkably accessible way. If you're looking for a solid introduction to God's attributes, in an undomesticated way, then look no further.

victoria says

This book was an incredible writing and very inspiring to read with that also will giving us to discovery and learning in to the deeper understanding what we are really know about God and to understand his work with in the proper path of theology by putting heart out side and being more doing follow in the right direction in every God word. I highly recommend to everyone must to read this book. "I received complimentary a copy of this book from Baker Books Bloggers for this review ".
